IN THE CLAIMS

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a surface emitting laser, an upper [metal capped] mirror structure comprising a stack of dielectric layers of alternating high and low indices of refraction capped with a layer of metal, the improvement comprising a layer consisting of tin oxide to which the metal capping layer is directly adhered for improving adhesion of the metal capping layer to the stack of dielectric layers, the upper mirror structure disposed over a light emitting structure and a lower mirror structure.

2. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according to Claim 1 wherein said tin oxide layer is disposed at an end of a stack comprising an integral number of pairs of dielectric layers.

3. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according to Claim 2 wherein all of said stack layers other than said end layer of tin oxide are of materials other than tin oxide.

4. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according to Claim 2 wherein said tin oxide layer is one layer of a pair of dielectric layers disposed at said stack end.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) In a surface emitting laser, an upper [metal capped] mirror structure comprising a stack of dielectric layers of alternating high and low indices of refraction capped with a layer of metal, the improvement comprising a layer consisting of tin oxide to which the metal capping layer is directly adhered for improving adhesion

of the metal capping layer to the stack of dielectric layers,

said tin oxide layer being disposed at an end of a stack comprising an integral number of pairs of dielectric layers ,

said tin oxide layer being one layer of a pair of dielectric layers disposed at said stack end, [and]

all of said dielectric pairs comprising a layer of tin oxide; and

the upper mirror structure disposed over a light emitting structure and a lower mirror structure.

7. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according to Claim 1 wherein said layer of metal comprises a continuous uninterrupted end surface of said mirror for preventing light transmission from the mirror in a direction through the stack layers through said mirror end surface.

8. (Currently Amended) In a surface emitting laser, an upper [metal capped] mirror structure comprising a stack of dielectric layers of alternating high and low indices of refraction capped with a layer of metal, the improvement comprising a layer consisting of tin oxide to which the metal capping layer is directly adhered for improving adhesion of the metal capping layer to the stack of dielectric layers,

said tin oxide layer being disposed at an end of a stack comprising an integral number of pairs of dielectric layers,

said tin oxide layer being one layer of a first pair of dielectric layers disposed at said stack end, and

all of said dielectric layers other than said one layer of said first pair of dielectric layers being of materials other than tin oxide; and

the upper mirror structure disposed over a light emitting structure and a lower mirror structure.

9. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according

to Claim 1 wherein said metal is of gold.

10. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according to Claim 8 wherein said metal is of gold.

11. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] The surface emitting laser according to Claim 1 wherein said metal layer provides an exposed and uncovered outer layer of said stack.

12. (Currently Amended) [An improved mirror] the surface emitting laser according to Claim 8 wherein said metal layer provides an exposed and uncovered outer layer of said stack.